Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member and a plurality of axial members disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member for the entire length of the axial member.

17. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the axial members are uniformly spaced about the circumference of the shaft.

18. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 17, wherein four axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 90° about the circumference of the shaft.

19. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 17, wherein eight axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 45° about the circumference of the shaft.

20. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the elongate shaft includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and wherein the distal shaft portion has fewer axial members than the proximal shaft portion.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the first and second helical members each comprise polymeric material.

23. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 22, wherein the first and second helical members each comprise a plurality of monofilaments.

24. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the axial members each comprise a polymeric material.

25. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 24, wherein the axial members each comprise a plurality of polymeric monofilaments.

26. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 25, wherein the monofilaments are held together statically.

27. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 26, wherein the monofilaments comprise LCP.

28. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 27, wherein the monofilaments are arranged side-by-side to collectively define a flat ribbon.

29. (previously presented) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter, the method comprising the steps of:

braiding a first helical member and a second helical member about a carrier such that a plurality of axial members are disposed between the first and second helical members for the entire length of the axial member.

30. (original) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 29, wherein the axial members are uniformly spaced about the circumference of the shaft.

31. (original) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 30, wherein four axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 90° about the circumference of the shaft.

32. (original) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 30, wherein eight axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 45° about the circumference of the shaft